

**LEEK URBAN DISTRICT**

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**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

of

**Medical Officer of Health  
for 1961**

PREPARED BY  
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Medical Officer of Health for the District

and

**J. ROWBOTHAM, M.P.H.I.A., Asso. M.C.T., M.R.S.H.**  
Chief Public Health Inspector



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## MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE 1961

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Councillor JOHN SALES, J.P., Chairman

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Councillor D. Cope

Councillor W. E. Grundy

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Councillor T. S. Barlow, C.C.\*

Councillor F. Bold, Chairman of the Council

Councillor G. Geston, Vice-Chairman of the Council

\*County Council Representatives on Committee

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
10, STOCKWELL STREET,  
LEEK.

To the Chairman and Members of the Leek Urban District  
Council

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1961 which has been prepared in accordance with Circular 1/62 of the Ministry of Health.

**POPULATION.** The Registrar General's figure for the estimated mid-year home population is 19,300 compared with 19,230 in 1960; an increase of 70.

The estimated mid-year population in 1951 was 19,210 so that over the last ten years the population has increased by 90.

**BIRTH RATE.** There has been a decrease in the number of live births compared with the previous year. In 1960, 260 births occurred whilst in 1961 there was a total of 252. Further details will be found on page 4.

Adjusted birthrate of 13.6 (comparability factor 1.04) compared with a national birth rate of 17.4. The proportion of illegitimate live births rose to 5.2% there being 13. The national figure for 1961 is 5.9%.

**STILL BIRTHS.** There was a reduction in the rate of still births per 1,000 of total births during the year being 7.9 against a national average for England and Wales of 19.1.

**INFANT MORTALITY.** There was a slight decrease compared with 1960. A total of 5 deaths occurred under one year of age. Further details will be found on page 5.

**DEATHS.** There were 292 deaths in 1961 compared with 239 in the previous year. The following causes of death are of interest:

Diseases of the heart and circulatory system (neglecting hypertension with heart disease)	145	49%
Malignant Disease	57	19%
Infections		
(Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Influenza and Tuberculosis)	39	13%

Further details will be found on page 6.

**HOME ACCIDENT PREVENTION.** The Home Safety Act, 1961, empowers the Councils of County Districts to promote home safety. A voluntary Home Safety Committee was formed in Leek in May, 1958, and the Leek Urban District Council in 1961 agreed to give financial assistance towards its activities which this Act made possible.

Accidents accounted for 12 deaths during 1961 (of these 3 were motor vehicle accidents) representing 4.1% of all deaths during the year.

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES.** It was realised early in 1961 that an unusually large number of cases of poliomyelitis might be expected in

this country during the year. The Leek Health Committee took the initiative in approaching the Area Health Office for a combined effort to publicise and provide open sessions for inoculations against this disease. Four open sessions were held between May and September and more than 900 persons were vaccinated.

Co-operation with publicity was willingly given by the local Press, schools, industry and shops and I should like to place on record my appreciation for their help.

At the first open session those attending were asked how they came to learn of the inoculation session at the Town Hall with the following results:—

Press	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	104	40.3%
Letter from school	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	89	34.4%
Told by friend or relative	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	13.6%
Notice at work	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	8.6%
Read a poster	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	2.3%
Not sure	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	0.8%
										258	100.0%

It is of great importance for health education in general to learn the most effective means of informing the public, perhaps such factors vary in different places.

It is pleasing to report that no cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the year but this is not an indication for relaxing vigilance. All parents should make it their duty to see their children are protected. A new schedule relating to vaccination and immunisation was decided by the County Council in 1961 (Ministry of Health Schedule Q) and was effective in January 1962. Details will be found on page 15.

The level of protection against whooping cough is below the level considered satisfactory while the vaccinated proportion of the population is very low. Details will be found on page 13.

**CARE OF OLD PEOPLE.** Concern was expressed by the Health Committee about elderly people living alone in Leek and I was asked to submit a report setting out the provisions available for them.

The following details were presented to the Health Committee at the October meeting.

**COMMUNITY CARE OF THE AGED**

**COUNTY COUNCIL:**

The local authority which administers the National Health Service and National Assistance Acts, i.e. the County Council is responsible for almost all the services which are provided.

Most old people prefer to retain their independence as long as possible and remain in their own homes. Often however the elderly living alone find this difficult because of illness or infirmity and need the support of health visitors and district nurses to advise and carry out treatment. The domestic help scheme is of special benefit to the old and infirm and the cost can be scaled according to income. A home

help on one or two half days a week may be sufficient to enable an old person to remain in his own home. Application for these provisions is made to the Area Medical Officer, the County Council having delegated these duties to the Area Health Committees.

The County Council provides a chiropody service for old persons if necessary the chiropodist pays home visits.

Where an old person wants accommodation in an ordinary old person's home, application is made to the County Welfare Dept., whose local officers deal with the case.

### **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE BOARD:**

The Board provides financial assistance according to needs.

### **HOSPITAL SERVICES:**

As opposed to acute illness, when an elderly person's physical condition is such that prolonged nursing care is required the family doctor makes application to the Area Medical Officer who investigates through his health visitors. If the services he is able to provide such as domestic help and home nursing are insufficient to meet the person's needs he refers the case for hospital admission.

### **DISTRICT COUNCIL:**

1. For the purpose of securing care and attention, persons may be removed to suitable premises in circumstances where they
  - (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions

AND

- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

Apart from these very special circumstances which fortunately are rare the District Medical Officer of Health has no jurisdiction.

When an elderly person is brought to the notice of the medical officer because anxiety is felt for that person's health or welfare all he can do is visit and inform the family doctor, County Welfare Department, or Area Medical Officer as the case may be.

2. Special consideration for the housing needs of old people such as ground floor flats or bungalows is also a matter for the District Council.

### **VOLUNTARY HELP:**

It would be wrong not to mention the important part played by voluntary organisations and the kindly help some neighbours give to old persons, for many elderly people especially if living alone are nervous and suspicious of the representatives of official bodies, however sympathetic their officers may be, and refusal of help is not uncommon.

In May 1961, in homes throughout the County there were 17 old people who originated from the area of this Council and in addition there were 11 on the list awaiting admission, either from their own homes or from hospital. This information was kindly supplied by the Clerk of the County Council who went on to say that the County

Welfare Officer was doing all possible to see that residents were being cared for in homes near to their locality as further accommodation became available.

**SLUM CLEARANCE.** A Local Public Enquiry conducted by Mr. R. E. Barry for the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was held at the Town Hall, Leek, to hear objections against a compulsory purchase order in respect of 31 dwellings and two warehouses comprising the Ball Lane Area.

In October the Minister confirmed the compulsory purchase order.

May I on concluding this report express my appreciation for the very capable and willing help given me during the year by your Public Health Inspectors and the Health Department in general.

H. E. WILSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

SECTION A

GENERAL STATISTICS

	1960	1961
Area (in acres) ... ..	4,315	4,315
Registrar General's mid-year estimate of home population (all ages) ... ..	19,230	19,300
Number of inhabited houses in the Rate Book at end of year ... ..	6,710	6,726
Number of persons per house ... ..	2.9	2.9
Number of persons per acre ... ..	4.4	4.5
Rateable value at 31st March ... ..	£217,950	£226,293
Sum represented by a penny rate for financial year ended 31st March ... ..	£882	£922

VITAL STATISTICS

	Male	Female	Total
Live births ... ..	135	117	252
(Illegitimate births) ... ..	9	4	13
Live birth rate per 1,000 population ... ..			13.05
Adjusted birthrate (comparability factor 1.04) ... ..			13.6
Birthrate (England and Wales) = 17.4.			
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births = 5.16.			
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births (England and Wales) = 5.9.			

NOTE ON ADJUSTED BIRTH RATE

Local birth rates are usually expressed in terms of population. These populations are estimated by the Registrar General and comprise persons of all ages, including many who quite obviously have no influence on the reproductive process. These latter do, however, affect the birth rate in that a preponderance of them in the population of an area tends to lower



and a small proportion of them to raise, the true rate. Considerable variation in the size of this proportion exists in different areas, and it is therefore apparent that the elimination or standardisation of such a factor enables a truer comparison between areas.

A result on these lines is obtained through the issue by the Registrar General of a comparability factor for each area for use with birth rates. The adjusted birth rate resulting from the multiplication of the crude birthrate of an area by its comparability factor may be regarded as being comparable with the adjusted rate of any other area or with the crude rate for England and Wales.

	Male	Female	Total
Still births	0	2	2
(Illegitimate)	0	0	0
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births = 7.87.			
Still birth rate (England and Wales) = 19.1.			
Total live and still births	135	119	254
(Illegitimate)	9	4	13

	Male	Female	Total
INFANT DEATHS (deaths under 1 year of age)	4	1	5
(Illegitimate)	1	—	1
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births = 19.84.			
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births Legitimate = 16.74.			
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births Illegitimate = 76.9.			
Infant mortality rate (England and Wales) = 21.6.			
Neonatal mortality (deaths under 4 weeks of age)			
(Illegitimate)	1	—	1
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (first 4 weeks) = 3.97.			
Neonatal mortality rate (England and Wales) = 15.5.			
Early neonatal mortality rate (first week) per 1,000 live births = 3.97.			
(Deaths under 1 week were 1).			
Perinatal mortality rate (still births plus deaths during the first week) per 1,000 total live and still births = 11.8.			
Maternal deaths (including abortion) = 1.			
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births = 3.94.			
Maternal mortality rate (England and Wales) 0.33.			

	Male	Female	Total
DEATHS ALL AGES	145	147	292
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population = 9.96.			
Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.00) = 9.96.			

NOTE:—This comparability factor is obtained and used on a similar principle to that for comparability for births.  
 Death rate (England and Wales) = 12.0.

## DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1961:

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..		1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	2	6	8
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus ... ..	6	2	8
Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	—	10	10
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	4	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ... ..	15	12	27
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	—	—	—
Diabetes ... ..	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	7	25	32
Coronary disease, angina ... ..	31	12	43
Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	6	2	8
Other heart disease ... ..	14	27	41
Other circulatory disease ... ..	10	11	21
Influenza ... ..	4	4	8
Pneumonia ... ..	7	8	15
Bronchitis ... ..	12	3	15
Other diseases of respiratory system ... ..	2	—	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	1	—	1
Gastritis and Enteritis and Diarrhoea ... ..	1	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	2	—	2
Congenital malformations ... ..	—	1	1
Pregnancy, childbirths and abortions ... ..	—	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	17	10	27
Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	1	2	3
All other accidents ... ..	5	4	9
Suicide ... ..	1	1	2
Homicide and operations of war ... ..	—	—	—
	<hr/> 145	<hr/> 147	<hr/> 292

## NOTE ON CAUSE OF DEATH:

**MALIGNANT DISEASE (Cancer).** This caused 57 deaths, i.e. 20% of all deaths.

In 1956, 19.4%; in 1957, 20.9%; in 1958, 22.6%; in 1959, 23.0%; in 1960, 18.7%; 1961, 20%.

Cancer of the lung killed 6 men and 2 women in 1961, i.e. 14% of all cancer deaths. This figure has shown a rise in the last few years until 1961; in 1956, 9.3% of all cancer deaths were due to cancer of the lung, in 1957, 14.3%; in 1958, 15.1%; in 1959, 15.3%; in 1960, 23.9% and in 1961, 14%.

If we consider all the deaths which have occurred in the last 6 years then cancer of the lung was responsible for, in 1956, 1.8%; in 1957, 3%; in 1958, 3.4%; in 1959, 3.5%; in 1960, 4.4% and in 1961, 3.4%.

Those deaths due to cancer of the lung were in males aged 36, 66, 56, 71, 64, 67 years and females aged 48 and 62 years.

**HEART DISEASE.** 92 deaths were due to this, i.e. 31.5% of all deaths (in 1960 it was 35.1%).

**BRONCHITIS.** This common complaint had 15 deaths as a result in 1961, 5.13% of all deaths compared with 4.03 in 1960.

**SUICIDE.** A female, aged 64 years, who took an overdose of Sodium Amytal tablets, and a male, aged 27, who took an overdose of Aspirin.

## ACCIDENTAL DEATHS IN 1961

1. **MOTOR VEHICLE.** Three occurred, a female, aged 20 years, who died from cerebral contusion sustained in impact with a goods motor vehicle, a female, 43 years, who died from multiple injuries received when the van in which she was a passenger was in collision with another motor car, and a male, aged 25 years, who died from a fractured skull, shock and haemorrhage resulting when the car he was in, was in collision with a motor lorry.

2. **HOME ACCIDENTS.** 4 deaths resulted from accidents in the home compared with 5 in 1960. Two were due to falls which caused fractures, females aged 86 years and 91 years. A female aged 81 years died from coal gas poisoning caused when a flexible gas pipe became detached and a female aged 52 years died from toxæmia resulting from burns received when her clothing caught fire.

## INFANTILE MORTALITY 1961

### DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

Male — age 11 months	Status Epilepticus
Male — age 1 hour	Immaturity
	Toxaemia of Pregnancy
	Breech delivery
Male — age 4 months	Capillary Bronchitis
Male — age 4 months	Acute Bronchiolitis
Female — aged 5 months	Pneumonia
	Hydrocephalus and Spina bifida
	Meningocele

## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES:

#### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

1. Herbert Edward Wilson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.
2. James Rowbotham, M.P.H.I.A., Assoc. M.C.T., M.R.S.H., Chief Public Health Inspector.
3. Edgar Norris Whitehead, M.P.H.I.A., Public Health Inspector.

The Urban District Council is the sanitary authority responsible for the environmental services.

The local authority has no major responsibilities under the National Health Service Act, 1946. The sanitary administration of the district has not been altered by it. The County Council is both Local Health and Local Sanitary Authority as well as Local Education Authority. It is responsible for the following services: Maternity and child welfare, domiciliary midwifery, vaccination and immunisation, an ambulance

service, a health visiting service, the administration of the Mental Services, "care and after care" and the provision of home nursing and "home helps." Section 21 of the Act imposes on the County Council the duty of providing Health Centres.

The following are the principal services provided by the County Council and utilised by the inhabitants of the urban district.

## **1. AMBULANCE SERVICES (Section 27)**

No change occurred in these during the year.

There are 3 ambulances and 4 sitting cars and a staff of 23 consisting of 1 officer in charge and 22 drivers.

Radio reception is fitted to 2 sitting cars and 2 of the ambulances.

## **2. MATERNITY, HOME NURSING AND DOMESTIC HELP SERVICES (Sections 23, 25 and 29)**

There are three County Council midwives — two full time and one part time. Leek also has two district nurses. The Leek Area Health Committee, under Section 29, is responsible for the appointment of domestic helps. Their function is to give assistance in the home during the incapacity of a wife or mother, and they do not undertake any duties of a nursing character.

Working in the Leek Urban District are approximately 24 domestic helps and the number of hours worked each week is approximately 443.

The County Council is responsible for other special health services — Maternity and Child Welfare and the School Health Service. There are three Health Visitors available for Ante-Natal work and for the supervision of nursing mothers and children. Under the direction of the Chest Physician, all have duties of visiting the tuberculous.

## **LABORATORY FACILITIES (Part, Section 26)**

Leek is served by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Stafford. This is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health. It is a component of a free national laboratory service for England and Wales. The work of the Laboratory is designed to assist the Medical Officer of Health and the general practitioners, in the diagnosis, prevention and control of communicable diseases. Its activities include the examination of throat and nose swabs, sputum, blood and excreta of human origin as aids to diagnosis of suspected or actual infectious diseases. Its sanitary work includes mainly the bacteriological examination of drinking water, the testing of sampled milk for cleanliness and for the presence of the tubercle bacillus and other pathogenic organisms, and the bacteriological testing of ice cream, synthetic cream, and shellfish as distributed to the user or consumer. Its staff is available to participate in the investigation of outbreaks of infectious disease in the area which it serves, with the general aim of preventing or controlling disease.

The laboratory distributes in the prevention of disease, diphtheria prophylactic and calf lymph for smallpox vaccination. It makes available measles prophylactic for the passive immunisation of contacts and distributes outfits for the collection of pathological material.

The following reports were received from the laboratory during the year on specimens submitted.

**SPUTUM.** During 1961, the laboratory service investigated 27 specimens of sputum submitted for examination for the tubercle bacillus by the Chest Physician. All the specimens were examined by direct microscopy and 2 were found to be positive. All were examined by cultural examination and 4 of these were found to be positive for tubercle bacillus, 3 were from the same person.

The general practitioners submitted a total of 27 specimens of sputum during the year. All were examined by direct examination for tubercle bacilli, and all were negative. Cultural examination was made on 12 and 5 showed pathogenic organisms.

**THROAT SWABS.** 24 throat swabs were taken in 1961 by the general practitioners, 3 were positive for haemolytic streptococci.

**FAECES.** A total of 301 were sent for examination during the year. The majority of these 248 were sent by the general practitioners, 11 were positive for salmonella typhimurium, 1 for Salmonella heidelberg, 22 for Shigella sonnei and 3 for pathogenic E.coli only.

The health department sent 53 specimens - 2 were positive for Salmonella typhimurium and 10 for Shigella sonnei.

**BLOOD SPECIMENS.** 3 specimens were sent by a general practitioner for Widal testing and proved negative.

**FOOD SAMPLES.** The laboratory was also used for the examination of ice cream samples during 1961.

**MILK.** The laboratory continues to report on the results of general bacteriological tests and biological tests for tubercle bacilli in samples of milk submitted to it by the County Council Milk Sampling Officer milk sold in the Urban District.

During the year, a total of 242 samples were taken.

214 samples were submitted to the METHELYN BLUE test, a test for ordinary bacteriological cleanliness, 15 samples failed to pass the test. Failures were in Tuberculin Tested, Tuberculin tested pasteurised and pasteurised milks.

Of the 150 samples of pasteurised milk examined by the PHOSPHATASE TEST to ascertain the effectiveness of the process - 2 failed the test. In one case this was due to a fault in the recording apparatus on the plant.

All 28 samples of sterilised milk submitted to the TURBIDITY TEST were satisfactory. Sterilised milk is very safe and in my opinion should be much more popular.

**BIOLOGICAL TESTS** for the presence of tubercle bacilli were carried out on 34 samples of tuberculin tested milk all of which were satisfactory.

**BRUCELLOSIS.** This is a disease almost invariably transmitted to human beings by drinking infected milk. Samples are taken as a routine measure to ascertain whether the milk is infected and in 1961 of 34 samples 1 was found to be positive.

The preventative measures in this disease are hindered by the fact that the organism may be excreted intermittently by the cow, the length of time taken by the laboratory to undertake the biological test and that Brucellosis is not a notifiable disease.

The most effective measure against contracting this disease is to drink pasteurised or sterilised milk only.

A table showing the results of the tests made in 1961 is on page 26.

**HOSPITALS.** The following hospitals are available for various forms of treatment: General, acute and chronic, sanatoria, mental and infectious diseases — Bucknall Hospital; Memorial Hospital, Leek; North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary; Haywood Hospital; Orthopaedic Hospital, Harts-hill; Longton Cottage Hospital; City General Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent; Moorlands Hospital, Leek; Cheadle Hospital; Westcliffe Hospital, Chell; Groundslow Sanatorium and Cheshire Joint Sanatorium, Loggerheads, near Market Drayton; St. Edward's Hospital, Leek; Biddulph Grange Orthopaedic Hospital; Limewood Hospital, Newcastle and Stanfield Hospital, Burslem (both for chronic sick). All are administered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board through the Local Area Management Committees. Geographical hospital boundaries have thus been greatly widened by the Regional arrangements under the Act, and as far as this district is concerned, have made the problem of finding hospital accommodation for the acutely sick a little less difficult than in many parts of the country. The problem of accommodation for the chronic sick has increased, in spite of the large number of beds allocated for this purpose.

Maternity cases, in an emergency, are received at the City General Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent. Part of the maternity wing of the Haywood Hospital is now available for normal cases without charge and part is still on a fee-paying basis (private beds).

**MORTUARY.** The Council's mortuary is situated in Condlyffe Road. Essential equipment is provided by the local authority and a mortuary attendant is available when required.

The mortuary was used for 61 persons during 1961. No post mortems were performed, the last being carried out on March 8th, 1958, due to the resignation of the local police surgeon, no successor being available to do this particular part of his duties. Post mortems are now carried out at the North Staffs. Royal Infirmary.

## WATER SUPPLY

A Bacteriological investigation was carried out on water taken from the springs, Upperhulme, before chlorination, with the following result:

Plate Count	...	...	...	...	76 per ml.
Colliform Bacilli	...	...	...	...	60 per ml.
Faecal Coli.	...	...	...	...	4 per ml.



This shows that untreated water from the Upperhulme springs is not of satisfactory quality in its raw state, adequate chlorination is essential for this water.

Of the other samples taken after chlorination all but one were satisfactory in quality, complying with the standards prescribed by the Ministry of Health for a piped chlorinated water supply.

The following table gives details of samples and results obtained.

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL TESTS AFTER CHLORINATION.

	No. of Samples taken	Result	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
January	25	25	
February	14	14	
March	22	22	
April	16	16	
May	20	20	
June	16	16	
July	20	20	
August	18	17	1
September	16	16	
October	16	16	
November	15	15	
December	15	15	
Total	213	212	1

The unsatisfactory sample was taken from a tap in the town during August, the result was Plate Count 97 per ml., coliform bacilli 50 and faecal coli 11 per ml. This followed closely on the cleaning down of the Mount Reservoir and may have been due to the washing down of loose debris into the mains after cleaning. The flushing out process cannot remove all vegetable debris out from a rough irregular surface such as the Mount presents. On re-sampling, results were found to be satisfactory.

**CHLORINATION OF LEEK WATER SUPPLIES.** This is done at the two sources, Upperhulme and Pool End and also before the water enters the Mount Reservoir. Daily readings are taken by the Water Engineer in 6 sites — Buxton Road, Filter Beds, Town Hall, Town Yard, Old Church and Cattle Market. The results obtained for the year are most commendable, maintaining a remarkably consistent 0.1 to 0.2 parts per million of free chlorine, remarkable in the sense that the Mount Reservoir is uncovered and one expects to lose a considerable amount of chlorine to the atmosphere in an uncovered reservoir. As mentioned in previous reports the Mount Reservoir should be water tight and covered.

All dwelling houses in Leek (6,726) except for one outlying farm and hence the whole population (19,300) less this household, are supplied from the public water mains direct to the houses there being no stand pipes.

**CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLY.** The latest sample was taken in March, 1962, and was found to be chemically satisfactory.

**SWIMMING BATHS.** The swimming baths are an old structure in the centre of the town and at present consist of one swimming pool of small size and several slipper baths. The water used for filling is mains water (chlorinated for domestic use). Treatment in the baths is by

heating, filtration through a Bell pressure filter, with gas chlorination. The water is changed every 4 hours. The baths are open to the public from March to November approximately depending on the weather.

During the year from April to November, 31 samples were taken for bacteriological testing. 4 of these were unsatisfactory, investigation showed that the chlorinating plant had not been functioning correctly.

The prevention of spread of foot infections among swimmers was the subject of a report I prepared for the Baths Committee in May, 1961.

There are two conditions which are particularly liable to be contracted from wet surface surrounding a swimming pool, and this includes the changing cubicles, namely fungus infections and plantar warts.

The Committee accepted a recommendation for the provision of a foot bath containing 1 per cent sodium hypochlorite so placed that each bather must pass through it.

It is probable that individual personal hygiene could do much to reduce infection by a thorough drying of the feet before dressing and the use of a mild antiseptic powder. It may well be that for some individuals more frequent washing of the feet and more frequent changes of socks would improve the standard of foot health and so raise resistance to these infections.

Other minor improvements to the baths were made by the Engineer's Department during 1961.

**SEWERAGE.** The sewage disposal works is situated at Leekbrook and is designed to treat a daily average dry weather flow of 1,025,000 gallons. During 1961, the daily average dry weather flow was 1,700,000 and although no adverse report regarding treatment was received there is no doubt that the system is very seriously overloaded.

Leekbrook and Cheddleton Heath are the only areas so far not on main sewers apart from a relatively small number of isolated properties.

**REFUSE DISPOSAL.** The condition of the Refuse Tip improved somewhat during 1961 but it was still below the standard of Controlled Tipping.

**AIR POLLUTION.** The Minister in 1961 confirmed with modification Leek's No. 1 Smoke Control Order.

Considerable progress has been made on the industrial side as far as smoke control is concerned in Leek.

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## SECTION C

Prevalence of and control over infectious and other disease:

The prevalence of infectious disease during the year showed an increase compared to the previous year. The total number of confirmed notifications was 487, compared to 237 in 1960, 778 in 1959 and 121 in 1958.



A table showing the notifications of infectious diseases during 1961 appears in the Report on page 22.

Leek is fortunate in that the Infectious Disease Isolation Hospital for the area is at Bucknall — a comparatively short distance away. This receives all types of infectious disease apart from smallpox, which is treated at the Witton Smallpox Hospital, Birmingham. Bucknall Hospital is administered by the Stoke-on-Trent Hospital Management Committee. Admission is arranged directly by the local general practitioners and transport is provided by the local ambulance service.

The Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education Memorandum on the exclusion from school on account of infectious illness, appears on page 20 and 21.

**DIPHTHERIA.** There were no cases of diphtheria notified during the year. The average number of births per year during the last ten years is 259. The number of children who completed a primary course of immunisation in 1961 was 199 representing 76% of the new members of the population. Re-immunisation amounted to 184 or 71% and these figures at least should be maintained in future years to provide an adequately protected community.

**WHOOPING COUGH.** 22 cases of Whooping Cough occurred during the year.

The number of children completing a primary course of inoculations against the disease was 170 representing a figure of approximately 60%. At least 75% of new members to the population should be protected.

**POLIOMYELITIS.** No cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the year. Unfortunately no figures are available for the number of vaccinations against this disease.

**SMALLPOX.** 65 persons were vaccinated against smallpox in 1961 in Leek. Of these 21 were under 1 year of age; 13 aged 1; 2 were aged 2-4; 2 were aged 5-14, and 27 aged 15 and over. In addition 45 persons were re-vaccinated — 2 aged 2-4; 4 aged 5-14 and 39 aged 15-14. These figures indicate how small a proportion of the population is seeking protection against the disease.

**SCARLET FEVER.** There were 11 cases of this disease during the year. This was a decrease on previous years — 16 cases in 1960; 22 cases in 1959 and 74 cases in 1958.

**MEASLES.** This is normally a seasonal disease occurring approximately every other year. In 1961 there were 425 cases compared with 2 in 1960.

**DYSENTERY.** There were 24 cases of sonne dysentery notified during the year. There is no doubt that the disease is highly infectious within a household or school and but for the intensive work of the Health Department in following up cases and contacts this number would certainly have been higher.

**PNEUMONIA.** There were 13 cases. Their ages ranged from 2 months to 69 years. In 1960 there were 3 cases.

**FOOD POISONING.** 8 cases were notified during the year, all were due to *Salmonellae*. Of these 8, 4 were isolated cases of food poisoning while the remaining 4 cases were almost certainly connected, being the result of *Salmonella typhimurium* phage type 2c. This phage type almost always originates from fowls or eggs but in spite of extensive investigations the precise source of the infection was not discovered.

**PUERPERAL PYREXIA.** One case notified, the first since 1958.

**OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.** One case notified, the first for over 10 years.

### ADMISSIONS TO BUCKNALL HOSPITAL

The following persons were treated for various reasons:

1. NON SPECIFIC GASTRO ENTERITIS — 2 females aged 3½ months and 76 years.
2. STREPTOCOCCAL THROAT INFECTION — 2 males aged 14 and 11 years.
3. NON SPECIFIC GASTRO ENTERITIS, CELLULITIS OF LEFT LEG AND HYPOCHRONIC ANAEMIA — a female aged 3 years.
4. ACIDOSIS — one female aged 2 years.
5. PYELITIS (B.CoI) — 3 females aged 16, 26 and 23 years.
6. ANAEMIA, PNEUMONIA — a female aged 8 years.
7. SONNE DYSENTERY — 2 males aged 6 years and 11 years.
8. SCARLET FEVER — 2 males aged 7 years and 3 years and a female aged 5½ years.
9. UPPER RESPIRATORY INFECTION — a male aged 10 years.
10. WHOOPING COUGH, PNEUMONIA — 2 males aged 8 months, a female aged 6 years.
11. LARYNGO TROCHEA BRONCHITIS — a female aged 3 years.
12. INFLUENZA AND BRONCHITIS — a female aged 72 years.
13. INFLUENZA AND PNEUMONIA — a female aged 46 years.
14. SALMONELLA TYPHIMURIUM — a male aged 2 years.
15. NON SPECIFIC GASTRO ENTERITIS AND OTITIS MEDIA — a male aged 39 years.
16. ACUTE TONSILLITIS — 2 males aged 2½ and 6 years.
17. CHRONIC RESPIRATORY PARALYSIS — a male aged 40 years.
18. GLANDULAR FEVER — a male aged 28 years.
19. SALMONELLA SEPTICAEMIA WITH SECONDARY SEPTIC ARTHRITIS — a male aged 13 years.
20. LYMPHOCYTIC MENINGITIS — 2 males aged 6 and 9 years.
21. PNEUMOCOCCAL MENINGITIS — a female aged 3 years.
22. SUBARACHNOID HAEMORRHAGE — a male aged 37 years.
23. ASEPTIC MENINGITIS — a female aged 11 years.
24. MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS — a male aged 9 years.
25. NON SPECIFIC GASTRO ENTERITIS AND UMBILICAL SEPSIS — a male baby aged 1 month.
26. MEASLES, BRONCHO PNEUMONIA, FIBROCYTIC DISEASE OF PANCREAS — male aged 2 years.
27. THROAT INFECTION — a male aged 45 years.

**TUBERCULOSIS.** The year commenced with a total of 84 persons on the register and a further 4 persons were added during the year. It was possible to remove 10 names from the register so that a total number of 78 persons was on the register at the end of 1960.

The non pulmonary case was a female aged 51 years with tuberculous glands of neck. The pulmonary cases were a male aged 58 and two females aged 25 and 50 years.

The proportion of cases in Leek at the end of the year was 3.7 per 1,000 of the population compared with 4.3 per 1,000 of the population in 1960.

The Health Visitors provided in the year 14 progress reports on tuberculous patients already on the register.

Progress reports should be submitted on every patient each 6 months and an environmental report is required on each new patient so that contacts can be examined.

## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION RECORDINGS

Three stations for recording atmospheric pollution have been set up in Leek, two being standard deposit gauges and one a smoke/sulphur dioxide recorder.

### SMOKE SULPHUR DIOXIDE

During the year changes were made in the method of measuring and recording results, consequently, it is not possible to give the highest, lowest and average figures for the year 1961.

### STANDARD DEPOSIT GAUGES:—

All figures are in tons per square mile per month.

	FOXLOWE SITE			EAST STREET SITE		
	Insoluble Deposits	Soluble Deposits	Total Deposits	Insoluble Deposits	Soluble Deposits	Total Deposits
January	5.9	4.8	10.7	4.3	4.8	9.1
February	5.6	4.9	10.5	—	—	—*
March	3.9	3.8	7.7	5.1	5.1	10.2
April	5.9	4.5	10.4	4.8	3.5	8.3
May	7.3	4.0	11.3	6.8	4.5	11.3
June	5.0	2.6	7.6	6.1	2.8	8.9
July	6.1	5.6	11.7	6.2	5.2	11.4
August	3.5	3.1	6.6	2.4	2.9	5.3
September	4.5	2.8	7.3	3.6	2.9	6.5
October	4.6	5.0	9.6	3.9	6.1	9.95
November	3.5	2.9	6.4	3.8	3.5	7.3
December	2.5	5.3	7.8	2.9	6.2	9.1
Average	4.85	4.10	8.96	4.54	4.31	8.85

\* Figures not available.

# Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1961 for the Urban District of Leek in the County of Stafford

## Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

### PART I OF THE ACT

1 INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prose- cuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local Authorities *	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	145	41	4	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total .....	145	41	4	—

\* To prevent any differences between the lists kept respectively by the Local Authorities and H.M. Inspectors of Factories of the numbers of factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Factories Act, 1937 are enforced by Local Authorities, it is requested that Local Authorities should compare their lists of factories with the lists kept by H.M. Inspectors of Factories.

† i.e. Electrical Stations (Section 103(1)), Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

- 2 Cases in which DEFECTS were found  
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	8	7	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	8	7	Nil	Nil	Nil

**PART VIII OF THE ACT**  
**Outwork**  
**(Sections 110 and 111)**

Nature of Work  (1)	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out- workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) (2)	No. of eases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prose- cutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in un- whole- some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prose- cutions (7)
Wearing apparel (Making etc., Cleaning and Washing)	61					
Household linen						
Lace, lace cur- tains and nets						
Curtains and furniture hangings						
Furniture and upholstery						
Electro-plate						
File making						
Brass and brass articles						
Fur pulling						
Iron and steel cables and chains						
Iron and steel anchors and grapnels						
Cart gear						
Locks, latches and keys						
Umbrellas, etc.						
Artificial flowers						
Nets, other than wire nets						
Tents						
Sacks						
Racquet and tennis balls						

**PART VIII OF THE ACT (Contd.)**  
**Outwork**  
**(Sections 110 and 111)**

Nature of Work  (1)	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out- workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prose- cutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No of instances of work in un- whole- some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prose- cutions (7)
Paper bags						
The making of boxes or other recep- tales or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper						
Brush making						
Pea picking						
Feather sorting						
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc.						
Stuffed toys						
Basket making						
Chocolates and sweetmeats						
Cosaques, Christmas stockings, etc.						
Textile weaving						
Lampshades						
Total .....	61					



# INCUBATION AND EXCLUSION PERIODS OF THE COMMONER INFECTIOUS DISEASES FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN AND SCHOOL STAFF

PERIOD OF EXCLUSION			CONTACTS, i.e. the other members of the family or household living together as a family, that is, in one tenement.
Usual incubation period (days)	Interval between onset and appearance of rash (days)	PATIENTS	
<p>SCARLET FEVER (and streptococcal sore throat) (Variants of the same disease).</p>	2—5	1—2	<p>3 weeks, plus 7 days after discharge from hospital or from home isolation. (Unless "cold in the head," discharge from the nose or ear, sore throat, or septic spots be present, which condition must be cured before return to school).</p> <p>Children — no exclusion. Persons engaged in the preparation or service of school meals to be excluded until Medical Officer of Health certifies that they may resume work.</p>
<p>DIPHTHERIA</p>	2—5		<p>At least 7 days. Return to school should not be permitted until bacteriological examination has proved negative.</p>
<p>MEASLES</p>	10—15	3—4	<p>Children under 5 years of age should be excluded for 14 days from the date of appearance of the rash in the last case in the house. Other contacts can attend school. Any contact suffering from a cough, cold, chill or red eyes should be immediately excluded. A child who is known with certainty to have had the disease need not be excluded.</p>
<p>GERMAN MEASLES</p>	14—21	0—2	<p>7 days from the appearance of the rash.</p> <p>None.</p>



# PERIOD OF EXCLUSION

	Usual incubation period (days)	Interval between onset and appearance of rash (days)	PATIENTS	Contacts, i.e. the other members of the family or household living together as a family, that is, in one tenement.
WHOOPING COUGH	7 — 10	—	28 days from the beginning of the characteristic cough.	Children under 7 years of age should be excluded for 21 days from the date of onset of the disease in the last case in the house. A child who is known with certainty to have had the disease need not be excluded.
MUMPS	12 — 28	—	7 days from the subsidence of all swelling.	None.
CHICKEN POX	11 — 21	0 — 2	14 days from the date of appearance of the rash.	None.
POLIOMYELITIS	7 — 14	—	{ At least 6 weeks Will usually require a much longer period for recovery.	At least 21 days.
ENCEPHALITIS	4 — 30	—		
MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION	2 — 10	—		
ALIMENTARY INFECTIONS (Enteric fever, dysentery, food poisoning).	—	—	Until declared fit by Medical Officer of Health or 6 negative stools for enteric and 3 negative stools for dysentery and food poisoning.	Contacts who have positive stools, though no illness should be excluded until stools negative (3 specimens).

**NOTE: STAFF WHO DEVELOP OR ARE IN CONTACT WITH STAPHYLOCOCCAL INFECTIONS** likely to cause food poisoning, e.g. septic infections of the hands, forearms and face, should be immediately suspended from duty and not permitted to resume work until the Medical Officer of Health has stated that it is reasonably safe for them to do so.

LEEK U.D. — INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1952-1961 (Confirmed Notifications)

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Scarlet Fever	34	35	40	22	20	45	74	22	16	11
Whooping Cough	31	49	156	24	16	28	2	—	175	—
Measles	368	174	223	55	335	21	14	735	2	425
Pneumonia	7	17	10	12	4	28	7	8	3	13
Dysentery	2	6	8	—	2	—	8	5	—	24
Erysipelas	—	—	1	1	3	—	2	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	1
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Polio-myelitis	—	—	2	—	1	13	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Meningitis	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	30	3	2	1	3	4	2	33	8
Tuberculosis: Pulmonary	7	8	9	4	5	8	6	2	4	3
Non-Pulmonary	1	3	2	3	2	1	1	1	2	1

# INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES — 1961

Numbers of all cases of infectious and other notifiable diseases originally notified, and of the final numbers according to sex and age after corrections subsequently made either by the Notifying Medical Practitioner or by the Medical Superintendent of the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Numbers originally notified	Scarlet Fever		Whooping cough		Acute poliomyelitis				Measles (excluding rubella)		Diphtheria		Dysentery		Meningo-coccal infection	
	M	F	M	F	Paralytic		Non-paralytic		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
	5	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	212	213	—	—	11	15	—	—
Total (All Ages)																
Final numbers after correction																
Under 1 year ... ..									8	2				1		
1— " ... ..									26	21			1			
2— years ... ..									31	28				1		
3— " ... ..	1								20	25				2		
4— " ... ..	2								22	20				1		
5—9 " ... ..	2	6							103	113			3	2		
10—14 " ... ..									1	3			4			
15—24 " ... ..									1				1	2		
25 and over ... ..										1			1	5		
Age unknown ... ..																
(Total (all ages) ... ..	5	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	212	213	—	—	10	14	—	—
Number originally notified	Ac. pneumonia		Smallpox		Acute encephalitis				Enteric or Typhoid fever		Paratyphoid fevers		Erysipelas		Food poisoning	
	M	F	M	F	Infective		Post-infectious		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
	11	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	7
Total (All Ages)																
Final numbers after correction																
Under 5 years ... ..	2	1														1
5—14 years ... ..															2	
15—44 " ... ..	3	1													2	1
45—64 " ... ..	4														1	
65 and over ... ..	2															1
Age unknown ... ..																
Total (All Ages) ... ..	11	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	3
Numbers originally notified	Tuberculosis						Other notifiable diseases				Original		Final			
	Respiratory		and C.N.S. Meninges		Other						M	F	M	F		
	M	F	F	M	M	F					—	1	—	1		
Total (All Ages)	1	2	—	—	—	1	Puerperal pyrexia Ophthalmia neonatrcum Anthrax				1	—	1	—		
Final numbers after correction																
Under 5 years ... ..																
5—14 years ... ..																
15—24 " ... ..																
25—44 " ... ..																
45—64 " ... ..	1	1				1										
65 and over ... ..																
Age unknown ... ..																
Total (All Ages) ... ..	1	2	—	—	—	1										



# COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Population ... ..	19,020	18,970	18,950	18,990	19,080	19,230	19,300
No. of inhabited houses ... ..	6,117	6,124	6,517	6,587	6,638	6,710	6,726
No. of live births ... ..	257	250	271	295	249	260	252
Birth rate (crude) ... ..	13.5	13.2	14.3	15.5	13.1	13.5	13.05
No. of still births ... ..	4	9	5	10	12	9	2
Maternal mortality ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Infant mortality rate ... ..	19.5	36.0	14.8	16.9	8.0	23.08	19.84
Infant mortality (No. of deaths)	5	9	4	5	2	6	5
No. of deaths (all ages) ... ..	251	222	201	234	256	248	292
Death rate (crude) ... ..	13.2	11.7	10.6	12.3	13.4	12.92	9.96

# TUBERCULOSIS IN LEEK 1961

	MALES		FEMALES		Total
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
Number of cases on Register at 31.12.60.	44	4	25	11	84
Number of cases added during the year	1	—	2	1	4
Number of cases removed during the year	6	1	1	2	10
Number of cases on Register at 31.12.61	39	3	26	10	78

## CASES ADDED TO THE REGISTER

New notifications	4
	<u>4</u>
	—

## CASES REMOVED FROM THE REGISTER

Recovered	10
	<u>10</u>
	—

24

## SCHEDULE OF IMMUNISATION

Age	Visit	Vaccine	Injection	Interval
6 to 8 months	1	Poliomyelitis 1	1	4 weeks
	2	Poliomyelitis 2	2	
9 to 12 months	3	Diphtheria Pertusis Tetanus 1	3	4-6 weeks
	4	Diphtheria Pertusis Tetanus 2	4	
15 to 18 months	5	Poliomyelitis 3	5	
18 to 21 months	6	Diphtheria Pertusis Tetanus 3	6	
Smallpox vaccination after the first birthday				
School entry year		Poliomyelitis 4 Diphtheria and Tetanus		
8 to 12 years		Diphtheria and Tetanus. Small- pox re-vaccina- tion		
Over 12 years		B.C.G.		

**LEEK URBAN DISTRICT — MILK SAMPLING 1961**  
**BY COUNTY COUNCIL MILK SAMPLING OFFICER**

Designation	Total	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test		Turbidity Test		Biological Test for T.E	
		Satis.	Unsatis.	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	Negative	Positive
Tuberculin Tested .....	62	50	12	—	—	—	—	34	—
T.T. Pasteurised .....	94	92	2	94	—	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised .....	58	57	1	56	2	—	—	—	—
Sterilised .....	28	—	—	—	—	28	—	—	—
Total .....	242	199	15	150	2	28	—	34	—



HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
10, STOCKWELL STREET,  
LEEK, STAFFS.

## CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

### To the Chairman and Members of the Leek Urban District Council

Mrs. Clowes and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my twenty-eighth Annual Report for the year 1961. The report is prepared in accordance with Circular 1/62.

Amongst foodstuffs examined during the year were a quantity of lard, purchased locally, suspected of being vegetable fat. The analyst reported that the fat was derived from a pig carcass, and this was as close a definition of "lard" as was practicable.

A needle was found embedded in a canned pigs tongue; the importers were communicated with, and were at a loss to account for the presence of such an object. The theory was advanced that the needle may have become embedded in the pigs tongue during life. After experiments with a pigs tongue from the abattoir, it was decided that no action be taken against the vendor.

A gelatinous film was found in a bottle of mineral water; this proved to be of bacterial origin, and may have been formed either in the factory or in the purchasers house. It was harmless in itself.

Not so harmless was a specimen of raw sausage meat found to contain *Salmonella typhi-murium*, an organism capable of causing food poisoning. This was discovered in a routine sample of a product made by a large wholesaler. The information was passed on to the Health Department in the district from which the meat came. Repeat samples were taken, but no similar organism was discovered.

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during the period under review. One cannot help feeling that this provision of the Rent Act 1957 has not achieved the desired effect. It is unlikely that any substantial number of applications will now be received, but I am not complacent in the belief that in all cases where the rent has been increased the houses were up to a reasonable standard of repair.

Many of these tenants are old people and it has to be assumed they would rather pay the increase in rent than have an unpleasant disagree-

ment with their landlord. The method of overcoming this difficulty and bringing to light the disrepair of such houses is to pursue a policy of house to house inspections, area by area, but unfortunately this is not possible with the staff available.

38 applications were received for Standard Grants, 36 of which were approved.

18 applications were received for Discretionary Grants, all of which were approved.

I think the Standard Grant scheme is achieving the desired end but at a very slow pace. It was hoped that these grants would induce owners of property to equip them with the standard amenities, but this hope has not been realised.

Of the 38 applications we have received, 33 were from owner occupiers, and it is to be hoped that the day is not far distant when Local Authorities will have the power to insist on working class dwellings being equipped with these minimum requirements.

I consider one of the most important facets of our work is safeguarding the health of our population as much as possible by keeping premises where food is prepared, stored and sold under surveillance. Many routine visits were paid to these premises during the year and although very few actual defects were found the salutary effect of the visit has the desired effect of maintaining the desired high standard.

Elsewhere in the report will be found details of the throughput at the slaughterhouse, and it is to be hoped that the local butchers will provide their own slaughterhouse in the near future. The present slaughterhouse is in the middle of a densely populated area, and although complaints are very infrequent it were better if a small abattoir could be built on a more suitable site.

The tip at Barnfields at the close of 1961 was practically full and finding an alternative site is going to be most difficult. Even if the Council decide to go ahead with incineration or composting or a combination of these systems many months must necessarily elapse, in the meantime it will be necessary to carry on with controlled tipping at some suitable site.

During the year the Leek No. 1 Smoke Control Order became operative, covering an area between Westwood Road and Newcastle Road, the emission of smoke from any chimney in this area becoming an offence. The area, as confirmed by the Minister, was smaller, and contained fewer dwellings than that proposed by the Council. These modifications much impaired the good effects which the Council felt would result from this Order, and it was a disappointment that the Minister felt himself unable to support the Council in a course of action which he has so often urged upon Local Authorities. More urgent action may be needed in the 'black' areas of the country but towns of the size of Leek are by no means free from the effects of aerial pollution, and it is unreasonable to restrain the desires of the smaller authorities to achieve clean air for their inhabitants. All are agreed that we must have clean air just as we have clean food and a clean water supply and the sooner this can be achieved by all authorities, large or small, the better. We are assured by many in authority that supplies of smokeless fuel are readily available so why our proposals were so pruned that the area

was just a travesty of its former self is one of these mysteries which may never be completely solved.

Only by attacking the problem of domestic pollution can any great advance be made towards clean air. At one time atmospheric pollution was attributable in roughly equal proportions to industrial and domestic sources. Under the pressure of the Clean Air Act, and of economic pressure towards the efficient use of fuel, the proportion of factories burning raw coal in such a manner as to cause nuisance has much diminished. A corresponding improvement has not taken place in domestic practice. Prejudice, apathy, and unwillingness to accept facts, make it very difficult to convince the general public that the domestic firegrate is the source of more air pollution than industry.

The view from Ladderedge or the Mount on Sunday morning when the factory chimneys can be seen standing clear of the haze of low-temperature low-level bituminous smoke is an indication of the most persistent cause of air pollution in Leek.

Factory owners have in the past year, been reminded by visit and by letter that 1963 is the end of the period of grace allowed by the Clean Air Act for the modernisation of equipment. After 1963, the excuse that no better result, from the point of view of air pollution, can be obtained with existing boiler-plant no longer holds good. Technical and other difficulties have been met with, but the great majority of factories in the town now have plant capable of complying with the Clean Air Act.

It is disappointing to report that the applications for a contribution towards the conversion of hand flush closets to water closets have fallen sharply during the year. It was hoped that as this scheme became more widely known, more applications would have been received, instead the number has fallen from 33 in 1960 to 7 in 1961.

Finally, Mrs. Clowes and Gentlemen, I should like to avail myself of the opportunity here presented to thank the Staff of the Department for their continued loyalty and co-operation.

J. ROWBOTHAM,  
Chief Public Health Inspector.

## **SECTION D**

### **PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

There are 23 conveniences in the district, 12 for men and 11 for women. These were inspected as occasion demanded during the year.

### **REFUSE COLLECTION**

Four vehicles were engaged solely on the collection of house refuse and 3,840 loads were removed and tipped on the Barnfields site during the year.

### **SALVAGE**

423 tons of cardboard and waste paper were salvaged and sold bringing in a total of £3,660. This is a very creditable performance and an extremely useful addition to the Council's income.

The following table gives in detail the sanitary inspection of the town.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE TOWN

1. Premises cleansed and repaired ... ..	134
2. Drains tested ... ..	106
3. Drains reconstructed ... ..	7
4. Drains repaired ... ..	21
5. Drains cleansed ... ..	34
6. Water closets cleansed ... ..	6
7. Water closets repaired ... ..	13
8. Water closets reconstructed ... ..	2
9. Flushing arrangements provided ... ..	1
10. Waste pipes altered or repaired ... ..	9
11. Rainwater pipes repaired ... ..	4
12. Roofs and gutters repaired ... ..	13
13. Additional ventilation provided ... ..	2
14. Additional light provided ... ..	—
15. Damp conditions remedied ... ..	12
16. Yards drained and paved ... ..	4
17. Dustbins provided ... ..	7
18. Fireplaces provided or repaired ... ..	3
19. Coppers provided or repaired ... ..	—
19. Cases of overcrowding abated ... ..	4
21. Accumulations of manure, etc., removed ... ..	9
22. Smoke nuisances ... ..	31
23. Cesspools cleansed ... ..	4
24. Rooms disinfested ... ..	23
25. Privies converted into water closets ... ..	—
26. Staircases repaired ... ..	—
27. Handrails provided ... ..	—
28. Windows repaired ... ..	4
29. Floors repaired ... ..	3
30. Walls and ceilings repaired ... ..	14
31. Food storage provided ... ..	—
32. Water supply provided or repaired ... ..	—
33. Sinks provided ... ..	3
34. Doors repaired ... ..	2
35. Back doors provided ... ..	—
36. Walls pointed ... ..	2
37. Chimney stacks repaired ... ..	4
38. Other nuisances ... ..	19
39. Septic tanks provided ... ..	—
40. Houses connected to sewer and septic tanks abolished ... ..	—
41. Persons in need of "care and attention" ... ..	2
	497

No. of preliminary notices served ... ..	48
No. of preliminary notices complied with, without the service of statutory notices ... ..	48
No. of statutory notices served ... ..	—
No. of statutory notices complied with ... ..	—
Proceedings in Court ... ..	1

## DETAILS OF OTHER INSPECTIONS

Nuisances reported to Health Department ... ..	254
.. referred to other Departments ... ..	4
Inspection of Premises where nuisances were found ... ..	240
.. of Premises where nuisances were found ... ..	10
.. of Factories ... ..	41
.. of Slaughterhouses ... ..	877
.. of Dairies, Milkshops and Farms ... ..	53

.. of Bakehouses	33
.. of Markets and Stalls	101
.. of Food Premises	564
Re-inspections after complaints	699
.. under Housing Acts	710
Visits under Clean Air Act	197
Visits re Food Poisoning	61
Visits re Theatre etc., Acts	34
Visits re Petroleum Regulations	22
Miscellaneous visits	641
Infectious diseases	59
	4400

## TENTS VANS AND SHEDS

There are now only 2 caravans on the Council's site. These people can be rehoused as and when the site is required for redevelopment.

No hardship appears to have been caused by the Council's decision to run down the site.

## RODENT CONTROL

The Council employ one full time Rodent Operative for the destruction of Rats, Mice and other pests in business premises, private dwelling houses, public sewers and the Town Tip. Details of the inspections and treatments are as follows.

Private dwellings:

146 inspections  
138 treatments  
755 visits

3rd Party Premises:

63 inspections  
49 treatments  
239 visits

Town Tip:

13 inspections  
7 treatments  
88 visits

Local Authority Premises:

10 inspections  
12 treatments  
27 visits

The Council have 8 contracts with private firms for the eradication of rats, mice and other pests. These premises are visited periodically and appropriate action taken where infestations are found.

## SHOPS ACTS

On a number of occasions the attention of shopkeepers was drawn to the Hours of Closing Act, and on four occasions, warnings were given for minor contraventions.

No proceedings were instituted.

## FACTORIES ACTS 1937-1948

Number of premises on register	145
Number of inspections during the year	41
Number of cases in which defects were found	8
Number of cases in which defects were remedied during the year	7

## SECTION E

### HOUSING

Action under our Slum Clearance Scheme again occupied a large portion of our time. 710 visits were made during the year to property dealt with under the scheme.

No Clearance Areas were declared during 1961.

Action under the Housing Acts was taken in respect of 20 individual unfit houses situated in Stockwell Street, Union Street, Sandon Street, Pickwood Road, Ashbourne Road, Knivedon Lane, Wallbridge.

During the year 17 Individual Unfit Houses were demolished.

Up to the end of 1961 14 areas had been declared "Clearance Areas," with a total of 153 dwellings. A further 98 houses were dealt with as "Individual Unfit" properties. This gives a total of 251 Units. In addition 32 dwellings were demolished after acquisition by the Council without statutory action under the Housing Acts thus bringing the total up to 283 out of a programme of 450.

### HOUSE LETTING

During the year 119 families were rehoused, 43 in connection with the Slum Clearance Scheme. During the same period, the Housing Committee agreed to 40 families exchanging their accommodation for other more suitable to their needs.

594 private interviews were granted to persons who wished to discuss their housing problems.

On the Housing Applications Register at December 31st, 1961, there were 410 applications for houses and flats and 200 for bungalows, and a further 75 applications had been deposited and were awaiting the expiration of the qualifying period of 9 months.

It should be put on record that during the year, as previously, the Housing Committee have dealt with the task of tenant selection in a most humane way and the countless hours the Members of the Committee have devoted to this work is worthy of the highest praise.

## SECTION F

### FOOD SAMPLES

52 samples of ice cream were taken with the following results:— 46 Grade I, 5 Grade II, 1 Grade III, 1 ice lolly was tested and this also was satisfactory.

59 samples of meat products and other foodstuffs were taken for routine examination and 1 was found to be unsatisfactory.

### FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED

Assorted foodstuffs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	386 tins
											68 pkts.
Ham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28 lbs.
Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 lbs.
Smoked salmon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22 lbs.
Ox kidney (imported)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 lbs.



Bacon	28 lbs.
Cooking fat	28 lbs.
Eggs	1 dozen
Butter	1 lb.
Marsh Mellow biscuits	6 lbs.

## MEAT

There was only one slaughterhouse in use during the year and 877 isits were made for the purpose of inspection.

The number of carcases inspected was 6,444 comprising 879 Prime Cattle, 23 Cows, 33 Calves, 4,367 Sheep and Lambs and 1,142 Pigs.

12 whole carcases and the following organs were found to be unsound or diseased and were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

## CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Prime Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	879	23	33	4367	1142
Number inspected	879	23	33	4367	1142

## ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI:

Whole Carcases condemned		-		1	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	129	9			93
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	14.8%	31.1%			7.53%

## TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:

Whole carcases condemned		-			2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned		2			26
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis		0.58			2.36

## CYSTICERCOSIS:

Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	3
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	3
Generalised and totally condemned	
Percentage affected by Cysticercus Bovis	0.32

**TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF CARCASES CONDEMNED WITH  
CAUSES OF CONDEMNATION**

	CATTLE		SHEEP	
	Whole carcase and all Offal	Meat	Whole carcase and all Offal	Meat
CYSTICERCUS BOVIS ... ..	3	—	—	—
INJURY ... ..	—	—	2	—
SEPTIC METRITIS ... ..	—	—	1	—
CASTOUS LYMPHADENITIS ...	—	—	1	—
Total ...	3	—	4	—
				<b>CALVES</b>
TUBERCULOSIS ... ..	—	—	—	2
SEPTICÆMIA ... ..	—	—	—	2
ABNORMAL ODOUR ... ..	—	—	—	1
Total ...	—	—	—	5

**TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF ORGANS CONDEMNED WITH  
CAUSES OF CONDEMNATION**

	CATTLE	CALVES	SHEEP	PIGS
<b>LUNGS:</b>				
Pneumonia ... ..	2	—	—	72
Tuberculosis ... ..	1	—	—	2
Pleurisy ... ..	3	—	—	6
Parasities ... ..	6	—	35	5
Contaminated ... ..	2	—	—	3
Melanosis ... ..	3	—	—	—
Abscesses ... ..	1	—	—	—
Total ...	18	—	35	88
<b>LIVERS:</b>				
Tuberculosis ... ..	—	—	—	—
Angioma ... ..	5	—	—	—
Abscesses ... ..	21	—	—	—
Cirrhosis and Necrosis ...	11	—	—	17
Fatty Degeneration ... ..	4	—	1	—
Distomatosis ... ..	75	—	80	3
Cysts ... ..	6	—	1	—
Melanosis ... ..	2	—	—	—
Total...	124	—	82	20
<b>HEADS AND TONGUES:</b>				
Tuberculosis ... ..	—	—	—	26
Actinomycosis ... ..	2	—	—	—
Glossitis ... ..	1	—	—	—
Abscesses ... ..	—	—	—	1
Total ...	3	—	—	27
<b>PLUCKS:</b>				
Pneumonia ... ..	—	—	—	31
Parasites ... ..	—	—	27	—
Total ...	—	—	27	31

All the meat and offals condemned are stained green with an indelible dye and then removed for processing into fertilisers.





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